



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

Office of Communications • Mark Dallas Loeffler, Director
1700 N. Congress Ave. • Austin, TX 78701-1495 • 512-463-5339 • FAX: 512-475-1415

PRESS RELEASE

Sharpening up Indian Point

Million-dollar project to protect wetlands under way

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Contact: Jim Suydam
512-463-2716
jim.suydam@glo.texas.gov

AUSTIN — Work to protect hundreds of acres of valuable wetlands near Corpus Christi Bay is under way on Indian Point.

Workers are busy smashing up concrete rip-rap that has protected the peninsula between Portland and Corpus Christi for many years but has made access to the shore for fishermen tricky. That resulting concrete rubble will then become the bedding material for more than 1,800 cubic yards of limestone — enough to fill more than 180 dump trucks — that will be placed along the Indian Point shoreline. A series of breakwaters will also be built in the bay adjacent to Indian Point Pier to reduce wave erosion.

“This project will protect wetlands that host migrating birds and the estuary that serves as the nursery for Corpus Christi Bays’ shrimp and fish,” said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. “The investment we are making to protect this area from saltwater intrusion will pay huge dividends.”

The total cost of the work is \$925,000, with the Texas General Land Office’s Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act program picking up \$555,000 of the total. The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, the Land Office’s partner on the project, is contributing \$70,000 and the city of Portland is pitching in \$300,000.

Limestone for the project is coming all the way from Old Castle Quarry in Marble Falls by train, and will be arriving on the site over the next several weeks. When completed, the rock revetments and breakwater will be about 5 feet tall. The rock revetment will reach 500 linear feet, wrapping around the fishing pier and parking lot. The offshore breakwaters will reach 500 feet into the bay.

Funding for the General Land Office’s CEPRA program is provided by the Texas Legislature every two years. To learn more about CEPRA or coastal erosion in Texas, visit www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cepra/index.html.

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